

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /080 W

----- 001493

R 281517Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7502

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABAB

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, RH, SF, NI

SUBJECT: BUTHELEZI IN LAGOS

1. SUMMARY. KWAZULU CHIEFTAIN BUTHELEZI IS IN NIGERIA ON FIVE DAY VISIT, TIMING OF WHICH DEMONSTRATES HIS OPPOSITION TO TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE. HE IS USING NIGERIAN FORUM TO EXPOUND HIS FORMULA FOR BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. ZULU CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI ARRIVED IN LAGOS THIS WEEKEND FOR FIVE-DAY VISIT AT INVITATION OF PRESTIGIOUS NIGERIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NIIA). MEETING WITH PRES AT AIRPORT, BETHELEZI SAID THAT CURRENT UNREST IN SOUTH AFRICA IS EVIDENCE OF BLACKS' FRUSTRATIONS WITH APARTHEID REGIME. ACCORDING TO PRESS

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ACCOUNTS, HE CALLED FOR BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS TO WITHHOLD THEIR SERVICES AS THIS ONLY WEAPON BLACKS HAVE TO FORCE SAG TO

CHANGE ITS POLICIES. HE EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS WITH TRANSKEI'S SO-CALLED INDEPENDENCE, NOTING THAT BROTHERS AND SISTERS THERE INSEPARABLE FROM BLACKS IN REST OF COUNTRY. CHIEF BUTHELEZI ASSERTED THAT ZIMBABWE AND SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATIONS INEXTRICABLY INTERWINED--IF THINGS WERE SORTED OUT PEACEFULLY IN FORMER AREA, THEN HOPEFULLY SIMILAR RESOLUTION WOULD OCCUR IN LATTER. ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN ZIMBABWE HOWEVER WOULD SURELY SPILL OVER INTO SOUTH AFRICA.

3. BUTHELEZI GOT INTO MORE DETAILS IN LECTURE TO NEARLY FULL HOUSE AT NIIA EVENING OCTOBER 26. IN HOUR-AND-A-HALF SPEECH THE ZULU LEADER EXPLAINED TO NIGERIA (AND AFRICA) HIS POSITION AND THAT OF OTHER BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA. (TEXT BEING POUCHED AF/W AND PRETORIA.). AUDIENCE INCLUDED CHIEF JUSTICE NIGERIAN SUPREME COURT AND MEMBERS OF FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AS WELL AS GOOD SAMPLING DIPLOMATIC CORPS, ACADEMICS, PRESS AND LEGAL PROFESSION. NAAI DIRECTOR EXPLAINED THAT THE CHIEF MINISTER OF KWAZULU HAD BEEN INVITED TO NIGERIA BECAUSE HE HAD UNDERGONE A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE IN RECENT YEARS AS EVIDENCED BY HIS TRAVELS WHICH NOW INCLUDED AFRICAN CITIES AS WELL AS WASHINGTON AND LONDON. BUTHELEZI RESPONDED BY LISTING HIS MANY VISITS TO INDEPENDENT AFRICA OVER THE YEARS, RECALLING THAT HE NOT FIRST "AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARY" TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON AND LONDON, AND BY ASKING FOR AFRICAN "BROTHERS AND SISTERS" TO EXERCISE PATIENCE WITH BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS WHO HAVE THE TOUGHEST NOT OF ALL TO CRACK TO GAIN THEIR FREEDOM.

4. HE SAID THERE MANY STRATEGIES TO FOLLOW TO GAIN MAJORITY RULE AND THAT ALL HAD MERIT. HE EXPLAINED HIS OWN VIEWS CONDITIONED BY HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS TRADITIONAL LEADER OF ZULU NATION AND HIS DUTY TO BE WITH HIS PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE "REAL" THREAT OF VIOLENCE HAD BROUGHT HOME TO VORSTER GOVERNMENT REALITIES OF A NEW SITUATION. EXPLAINING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD MOTIVES OF THOSE WHO ADVOCATED A VIOLENT SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, BUTHELEZI, NEVERTHELESS, MADE CLEAR HIS OWN PREFERENCE FOR PEACEFUL METHODS.

5. BUTHELEZI DWELT AT LENGTH ON THEME OF "AFRICAN CONSCIOUSNESS" WHICH HE DEFINED AS BLACK UNTIY, BLACK POWER, ETC. HE OPPOSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ALL EFFORTS TO FRAGMENT OR BALKANIZE (SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT) THE AFRICAN MAJORITY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND MADE CLEAR HIS ABSOLUTE DISAGREEMENT WITH DECISION OF TRANSKEI TO OPT FOR INDEPENDENCE. HE TOLD AUDIENCE THAT HE COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO BE PRESENT AT OCTOBER 26 CEREMONIES IN UMTATA AND EXPRESSED FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE MAJORITY OF TRANSKEIANS OPPOSED SEPARATE INDEPENDENCE. HE PREDICTED THAT THE TERRIROTY WOULD ONE DAY RETURN TO FORM PART OF A BLACK-RULED, UNITED SOUTH AFRICA. BUTHELEZI DESCRIBED FACT OF TRANSKEI "INDEPENDENCE" AS EVIDENCE OF FAILURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS SUCCESSFULLY

RESIST VORSTER'S EFFORTS TO KEEP THEM OPPRESSED. HE RECOGNIZED LEGITIMACY OF ANC AND PAC AND CALLED ON THEM TO COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS WITH HIS INTERNAL "LIBERATION" GROUP, INKATHA, IN THE FINAL STRUGGLE FOR MAJORITY RULE. ONLY THROUGH UNITY COULD BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA HOPE TO SUCCEED IN OVERTURNING THE PRESENT SYSTEM. BUTHELEZI SAID THERE WOULD BE NO REAL CHANGE OR IMPROVEMENT IN BLACK SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL MAJORITY RULE IS ACHIEVED.

6. ZULU LEADER ALSO ADDRESSED QUESTION OF RECENT U.S. INITIATIVES IN RHODESIA BY EXPRESSING "SOME SUSPICION" OF U.S. MOTIVES. HE READ MESSAGE DESCRIBING SOME OF HIS MISGIVINGS WHICH HE SAID HE HAD DELIVERED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO PRETORIA.

7. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED TALK, BUTHELEZI DREW APPLAUSE WHEN HE SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE TO CALL ZULUS BACK TO THEIR HOMELAND SINCE ALL OF SOUTH AFRICA IS HOME FOR BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS. HE ALSO TOOK A SWIPE AT HIS SWAPO COLLEAGUES (SAM MUJOMA IS CURRENTLY VISITING NIGERIA) WHEN HE ASSERTED THAT SWAPO WAS ALLOWED TO OPERATE INSIDE NAMIBIA WHILE ANC AND PAC WERE COMPLETELY "BANNED" IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE MADE ACCUSATION DURING BACKHANDED DEFENSE OF LACK OF ACTIVITY WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA BY ANC AND PAC. IN RESPONSE QUESTION ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF MULTINATIONALS, BUTHELEZI SAID HE HAD WARNED AMERICAN INVESTORS WHICH DIDN'T PERMIT BLACKS SHARE TODAY IN THEIR PROFITS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE NO PROFITS AT ALL WHEN BLACKS TOOK OVER THE COUNTRY.

8. COMMENT: BUTHELEZI, WHO LEFT LAGOS OCTOBER 27 ON TOUR OF NIGERIA, MADE GOOD IMPRESSION ON HIS AUDIENCE. NIGERIAN INTEREST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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IN SOUTHERN AFRICA GRAPHICALLY DEMONSTRATED BY CROWD WHICH ZULU LEADER DREW. BUTHELEZI, HIMSELF, SEEMED MOST ANXIOUS GET ON RECORD THROUGH NIIA FORUM HIS SOMETIMES INCONSISTENTLY EXPLAINED FORMULA FOR ACHIEVING MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA TO AUDIENCE WHOSE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AMONG LEADING ADVOCATES OF VIOLENT SOLUTION. HIS ASSERTION THAT USE OF VIOLENCE INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA "AT THIS STAGE" OF STRUGGLE WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR UNORGANIZED BLACKS DREW NODS OF ASSENT FROM MEMBERS OF AUDIENCE AND LITTLE HOSTILE QUESTIONING. HE ALSO SEEMED INTERESTED IN SELLING HIS 18-MONTH OLD LIBERATION MOVEMENT, INKATHA, TO NIGERIA AS ORGANIZATION WORTHY OF SUPPORT BY INDEPENDENT BLACK AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. IF THERE WERE ANY DOUBT THAT NIGERIAN VISIT DELIBERATELY TIMED TO DEMONSTRATE BUTHELEZI'S OPPOSITION TO TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE, HE REMOVED IT DURING HIS ADDRESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, TRANSKEI, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS12294
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760404-0173
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761010/aaaaahvb.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BUTHELEZI IN LAGOS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, RH, SF, NI, (BUTHELEZI, GATSHA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006